MANITOBA

FIREARM INCIDENTS

REPORT

Hunting and Non-Hunting
2000

Hunter and Firearm
Safety Program

Manitoba
Conservation
and
Manitoba
Wildlife Federation

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

Manitoba Conservation acknowledges the assistance provided by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces who provided information for this Firearm Incidents Report. It is through these organizations that detailed information on each firearm incident was obtained.

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Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Municipal Police Forces requiring additional incident report forms please write to the Hunter and Firearm Safety Program, 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg Manitoba R3J 3W3 or phone 945-6644. Questions regarding the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Program should be directed to:

The Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg MB R3H 0W7
633- Hunt (4868) or
1-877-633-Hunt

SUMMARY

During 2000 there were 3 firearm related incidents. In 1998 there were 6 and in 1999 there were 15 One of the 3 incidents in 2000 was self-inflicted. There was no hunting related fatality. One of the incidents involved shooters under 18 years of age, compared to nine in 1999 and none in 1998.

All of the incidents were related to hunting. One occurred during a licenced hunting season.

Of the 3 reported incidents, 1 occurred at a distance of less than ten yards, two at a distance of 10-50 yards. One of the 3 incidents involved a graduate of a Hunter Safety Program.

The Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety course was completed by 2,079 students in 2000, while 2,102 completed the course in 1999. 134,085 students have now graduated from the program since it began in 1964. Of the total 161 have later become involved in a firearm incident which represents .0012%. In 2000, 5 new instructors were certified, bringing the total number of volunteers to approximately 250 active instructors.

In 1998 the Manitoba Conservation entered into an agreement with the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF). The agreement transfers the administration and delivery of the Manitoba Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program to the MWF.

CAUSE OF INCIDENTS

	1999	2000
Victim out of sight of shooter	0	2
Victim moved into line of fire	0	0
Victim covered by shooter swinging on game	0	0
Victim mistaken for game	1	0
Shooter stumbled and fell	4(2)*	1
Using firearm as a club	0	0
Trigger caught on bush or other object	0	0
Loaded firearm in vehicle	0	0
Firearm fell from insecure rest	1	0
Horseplay" and/or "didn't know it was loaded"	2	0
Crossing fence or other obstacle with loaded firearm	0	0
Loading	0	0
Unloading	2(1)*	0
Defective firearm	0	0
Cleaning firearm	0	0
Loaded firearm in the home	2(1)*	0
Accidental discharge	1	0
Richochet	0	0
Other	2	0
Total	**15**	**3**

* Indicates fatal incident

Average firearm incidents per year in 5 year increments since Hunter Safety Program commenced.

1964-1968	44.2
1969-1973	56.0
1974-1978	53.6
1979-1983	42.8
1984-1988	26.4
1989-1993	20.4
1994-1998	9.0
1999	15.0
2000	3.0

SYNPOSIS OF 1999 AND 2000 FIREARM INCIDENTS

		1999	2000
A.	**Total Number of Incidents**	**15**	**3**
	Fatal	4	0
	Non-fatal	11	3
B.	**1) Hunting Legally During Regular Season**	**3**	**1**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	2	1
	2) Treaty Indian Hunting	**6**	**1**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	5	1
	3) Hunting Small Animals, Birds, or Illegal Hunting	**1**	**1**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	0	1
	4) Non-hunting Incidents	**7**	**0**
	Fatal in the home	1	0
	Fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Fatal outside home	1	0
	Non-fatal in the home	1	0
	Non-fatal in a vehicle	0	0
	Non-fatal outside the home	4	0
C.	**Shooter Unknown**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
D.	**Incidents Involving Shooter under 18 years of age**	**9**	**1**
	All Types of Hunting	3	1
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	2	1
	Non-hunting	6	0
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	5	0

TYPE OF FIREARM INVOLVED

		1999	2000
A.	**.22 calibre Rim Fire Rifle**	**7**	**1**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	6	1
B.	**Centre Fire Hi Power Rifle**	**1**	**0**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
C.	**Shotgun**	**3**	**2**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	2	2
D.	**Hand Gun**	**0**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
E.	**Pellet Gun**	**3**	**0**
	Fatal	0	0
	Non-fatal	3	0
F.	**Unknown/Other Muzzle Loader**	**1**	**0**
	Fatal	1	0
	Non-fatal	0	0
Total		**15**	**3**

DISTANCE OF VICTIM FROM SHOOTER

	1999	2000
0 to 10 yards	14	1
10 to 50 yards	1	2
50 to 100 yards	0	0
over 100 yards	0	0
Distance Unknown	0	0

OCCURENCES

Time of Day	1999	2000
Midnight – 3:00 a.m.	0	0
3:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.	0	0
6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	2	0
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon	3(1)*	0
12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.	2(1)*	1
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	4(2)*	1
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	3	1
9:00 p.m. – 12:00 midnight	1	0
Unknown	0	0
By Day		
Sunday	2(1)*	1
Monday	3	1
Tuesday	2	1
Wednesday	2(1)*	0
Thursday	1	0
Friday	2	0
Saturday	3(2)*	0
By Month		
January	0	0
February	0	0
March	3	0
April	3(1)*	1
May	1	0
June	1	0
July	1	1
August	1(1)*	0
September	2	0
October	1(1)*	1
November	1	0
December	1(1)*	0

* Indicates one or more fatal

COMPARISON OF NUMBER OF HUNTING LICENCES SOLD

	GAME BIRDS	BIG GAME	TOTAL
1970	45,822	47,156	92,978
1975	48,687	11,606*	60,293
1980	58,091	60,505	118,596
1985	35,342	52,541	87,883
1990	34,571	60,006	94,577
1995	24,511	67,883	92,394
2000	19,584	61,318	80,902

* Indicates closed deer season

COMPARISON OF TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS
LICENSED HUNTING INCIDENTS WITH TOTAL HUNTING LICENCES ISSUED

YEAR	TOTAL LICENSES ISSUED	TOTAL FIREARM INCIDENTS	LICENCED HUNTING INCIDENTS
1985	87,883	26	7
1990	94,577	22	6
1995	92,394	15	1
2000	80,902	3	1

*As of Febuary 19, 2001 - Subject to reconciliation

SUMMARY OF 2000 INCIDENTS

Proper firearm handling is the most important element of hunter safety. Careless handling of firearms can cause death or injury to hunters or their companions before they see their target or even reach the bush. Ten basic rules must be followed whenever a firearm is handled or used. The first four rules apply whether you are in a home or building (such as a gun store), in a vehicle, at a shooting range or while hunting. The ten basic rules are:

GENERAL RULES OF FIREARM SAFETY

1. **ALWAYS POINT THE MUZZLE OF A FIREARM IN THE SAFEST DIRECTION.**
2. **OPEN THE ACTION OF A FIREARM AS SOON AS YOU PICK IT UP FOR ANY REASON.**
3. **LOOK INTO THE CHAMBER AND MAGAZINE TO ENSURE THE FIREARM IS UNLOADED AFTER OPENING THE ACTION.**
4. **DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGER IN THE TRIGGER GUARD UNTIL READY TO FIRE.**
5. **BE CERTAIN THE BARREL IS FREE FROM OBSTRUCTION . THIS SHOULD BE DONE BEFORE LOADING AND PERIODICALLY DURING MOVEMENT IN THE FIELD.**
6. **CHECK FOR THE CORRECT AMMUNITION FOR THE FIREARM YOU ARE USING.**
7. **USE THE SAFETY BUT DON'T RELY ON IT.**
8. **NEVER CLIMB A TREE OR FENCE OR JUMP A DITCH WITH A LOADED FIREARM.**
9. **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND BEYOND BEFORE YOU PULL THE TRIGGER.**
10. **TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS THOUGH IT WERE LOADED.**

SUMMARY OF 2000 INCIDENTS

DATE AND TIME	AGE OF SHOOTER AGE OF VICTIM	FATAL	TYPE OF FIREARM	MUZZLE DISTANCE	GAME HUNTED	SHOOTER WAS A GRADUATE OF HUNTER SAFETY	CIRCUMSTANCES
April 25 2:30 pm	S - 21 Self-inflicted	No	12 gauge shotgun	0 – 10 yds	Ducks	No	Shooter tripped and fell. As he was falling gun got caught in some branches and discharged. Injury to little finger, forearm and left leg.
July 10 3:00 pm	S - 13 V – 12	No	.22 cal. rifle	10– 50 yds	Gopher	No	A gopher ran under a shed. Victim and shooter laying down on opposite side of shed. Shooter discharged at gopher striking victim in the cheek.
October 1 6:30 pm	S - 46 V – 15	No	12 gauge shotgun	10 -50 yds	Turkey	Yes	Both hunters were wearing camouflage. Victim moved toward some turkeys and could not be seen by shooter. Victim was struck in left arm and right middle finger.

S – Shooter
V - Victim